II. AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

 (Currently Amended) A method for identifying foreground segments of a JPEG image, comprising:

selecting a block in the JPEG image;

extracting a set of DCT coefficients from the block, wherein the set comprises the a first

N AC components of the block;

computing a sum of the set of DCT coefficients; and

analyzing the sum to determine if the block is part of a foreground segment; and

outputting an identified foreground segment.

- (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the JPEG image comprises a compressed image of a bank check.
- 3. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein N is 16.
- 4. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the step of analyzing the sum to determine if the block is part of a foreground segment includes the step of comparing the sum to a threshold value.
- (Original) The method of claim 1, comprising the further step of computing a sum for each block in the JPEG image.

- 6. (Original) The method of claim 5, wherein the step of analyzing the sum to determine if the block is part of a foreground segment includes the step of comparing the sum to a second sum computed for a neighboring block.
- 7. (Original) The method of claim 6, wherein the step of analyzing the sum to determine if the block is part of a foreground segment includes the further step of identifying the block as part of a foreground segment if the value of the sum is substantially larger than the value of the second sum
- 8. (Currently Amended) A program product stored on a recordable medium for identifying foreground segments in a compressed electronic image, the program product comprising: means for extracting a set of frequency coefficients from each block of the compressed electronic image, wherein each set comprises the a first N frequency coefficients of the block; means for computing a sum of the extracted frequency coefficients for each block; and means for analyzing the sum to determine if the block is part of a foreground segment, and
 - means for indicating that the block is part of a foreground segment.
- 9. (Original) The program product of claim 8, wherein N is 16.
- (Original) The program product of claim 8, wherein the set of frequency coefficients comprises JPEG DCT components.

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- 11. (Original) The program product of claim 8, wherein the means for analyzing the sum to determine if the block is part of a foreground segment compares the sum to a second sum computed for a neighboring block.
- 12. (Original) The program product of claim 8, wherein the means for analyzing the sum to determine if the block is part of a foreground segment compares the sum to a threshold value.
- 13. (Currently Amended) A system for identifying foreground segments of a JPEG image, comprising:
- a system for extracting a set of DCT coefficients from each block of the JPEG image; and
 a system for computing a sum of the extracted DCT coefficients for each block; and
 a system for analyzing the sums sum computed for each block to determine which blocks
 in the JPEG image are part of a foreground segment.
- (Currently Amended) The system of claim 13, wherein each set comprises the a first N AC components of the block.
- 15. (Original) The system of claim 14, wherein N is 16.
- 16. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 13, wherein the system for analyzing the sums sum computed for each block to determine which blocks in the JPEG image are part of a foreground segment compares a first sum for a first block to a second sum for a neighboring block

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- 17. (Original) The system of claim 16, wherein the system for analyzing identifies the first block as part of a foreground segment if the first sum is substantially greater than the second sum.
- 18. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 13, wherein the system for analyzing the sums sum computed for each block to determine which blocks in the JPEG image are part of a foreground segment compares each sum to a threshold value.

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